

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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TOP SECRET [redacted]

June 10, 1968

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NSC Review Completed.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. ROSTOW

SUBJECT: Infiltration

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During the period 1-10 May we observed 18 infiltration groups with a possible strength of 10,000 men. During the comparable period of June, we have noted 7 infiltration groups with a possible strength of 3,400 men.

On May 10 we were projecting a possible total of 151,000 men having arrived or on the trail.

Today, we project a possible total of 177,000 men. The attached chart shows the possible arrivals, by month, as we have calculated them. This includes the two divisions (304 and 320) which arrived at Khe Sanh in January, but does not include the 308th Division which may have arrived in May -- adding another 7-9,000 men.

Our calculations are based on information from all sources -- communications intelligence, captured documents and prisoner interrogations, and include infiltrators who began their journey in the last quarter of 1967 but arrived after January 1, 1968.

My personal assessment is that, as we get more information, we will find we are being quite conservative.

Art McCafferty
Art McCafferty

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PROJECTED MONTHLY INFILTRATION RATES

(By Month of Arrival)

40,000									
35,000					37,406				
30,000					31,587				
25,000							26,128		
20,000							19,062		
15,000				16,662					
10,000			9,808					7,593	
5,000		3,920						3,578	
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep Oct

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MEMORANDUM FOR MR. W. W. ROSTOW

Subject: Evaluation of Infiltration Memorandum

1. (C) An evaluation of the subject memorandum, prepared by Mr. McCafferty has been made in accordance with your suggestion and is attached.
2. (C) The evaluation was jointly prepared by CIA and DIA to provide you the most authoritative view of the intelligence community. Individual responses were considered unnecessary because of the close collaboration between CIA and DIA on infiltration.
3. (C) The intelligence community is in general agreement with Mr. McCafferty's memorandum. There were some minor differences in total infiltration figures. There were larger variations in the projected times of arrival, probably because of differing methodologies. These have been explained in detail in the evaluation.

1. Enclosure
Evaluation of Mr. McCafferty's
Memorandum of 10 June 1968 [redacted]

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Regraded ~~Classified~~
when separated from 25X1
classified inclosures.

DECLASSIFIED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 18 YEARS.
DOD DIR. 1300.10

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CIA/DIA EVALUATION OF MR. McCAFFERTY'S MEMORANDUM;
SUBJECT: INFILTRATION, DATED 10 JUNE (C)

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1. [] We basically agree with the overall possible total of personnel who had arrived in South Vietnam or were in the pipeline in Laos and North Vietnam as of 10 June (178,800 vice the 177,000 stated in Mr. McCafferty's memorandum), although there are differences in the projected monthly arrival totals during the period January-September 1968. It is believed, however, that differing methodologies account for the variations. Our methodology for determining arrival times is based on two factors: (1) Analysis of all [] information []

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[] the groups' apparent destinations in South Vietnam e.g., Military Region 5, B-5 Front, or 3d Corps. (2) The travel time for each group as computed from []

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information []

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[] These factors, as applied to each group, provide the basis for our projections of arrival times in South Vietnam during the January-September 1968 period.

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2. [] The data we use include the number of North Vietnamese personnel who began their southward movement since 1 November 1967 but reached their destinations after 1 January 1968. It is believed that the COMUSMACV's infiltration total for the first four months of 1968

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(Accepted and Possible categories) reflects a major portion of those personnel who began moving south during the last quarter of 1967.

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3. [] During the period 1-10 May, 20 groups with a possible strength of 11,100 were noted compared with the 18 groups with a possible strength of 10,000 men mentioned by Mr. McCafferty. During the comparable period in June (retroactively adjusted as of 12 June), 12 groups have been noted with an estimated total strength of 6,800 vice seven groups with a possible strength of 3,400 set forth in the memorandum. It should be noted, however, that four groups of the 12 groups included in our 1-10 June period were picked up on the 11th and 12th.

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4. [] As of 10 May, CIA and DIA estimated that 141,000 men had arrived in South Vietnam or were in the pipeline []

[]
[]
COMUSMACV's average monthly infiltration rate (6,950) were applied to October, this would bring the overall estimated number of personnel having arrived or in the pipeline to approximately 148,000 via 151,000.

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5. [] DIA and CIA presently estimate total infiltration for the period January-September 1968 at 178,800 (164,900 with attrition); this total is broken down into monthly figures on the enclosed chart. It should be noted that the projected arrival rate for September is lower than the preceding four months, []

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[] Many of the troops which probably will arrive in South Vietnam in September will depart the North during June and July. The rate at which new groups have been departing so far this month gives no indication that there will be a substantial drop in infiltration in September. An attrition factor of 10 percent has been applied to the difference between COMUSMACV's Accepted and Possible figures and our estimate of monthly infiltration. The January total reflects the strengths of the 304th and 320th NVA Divisions. Only limited evidence is available concerning the presence of the 308th NVA Division in South Vietnam; if, in fact, the division has deployed to South Vietnam, however, it is possible that elements of the division moved south as infiltration groups and, therefore, may have been taken into account in the projected total infiltration strength of 178,800. Nonetheless, this figure could be conservative since it is highly probable that all infiltration groups

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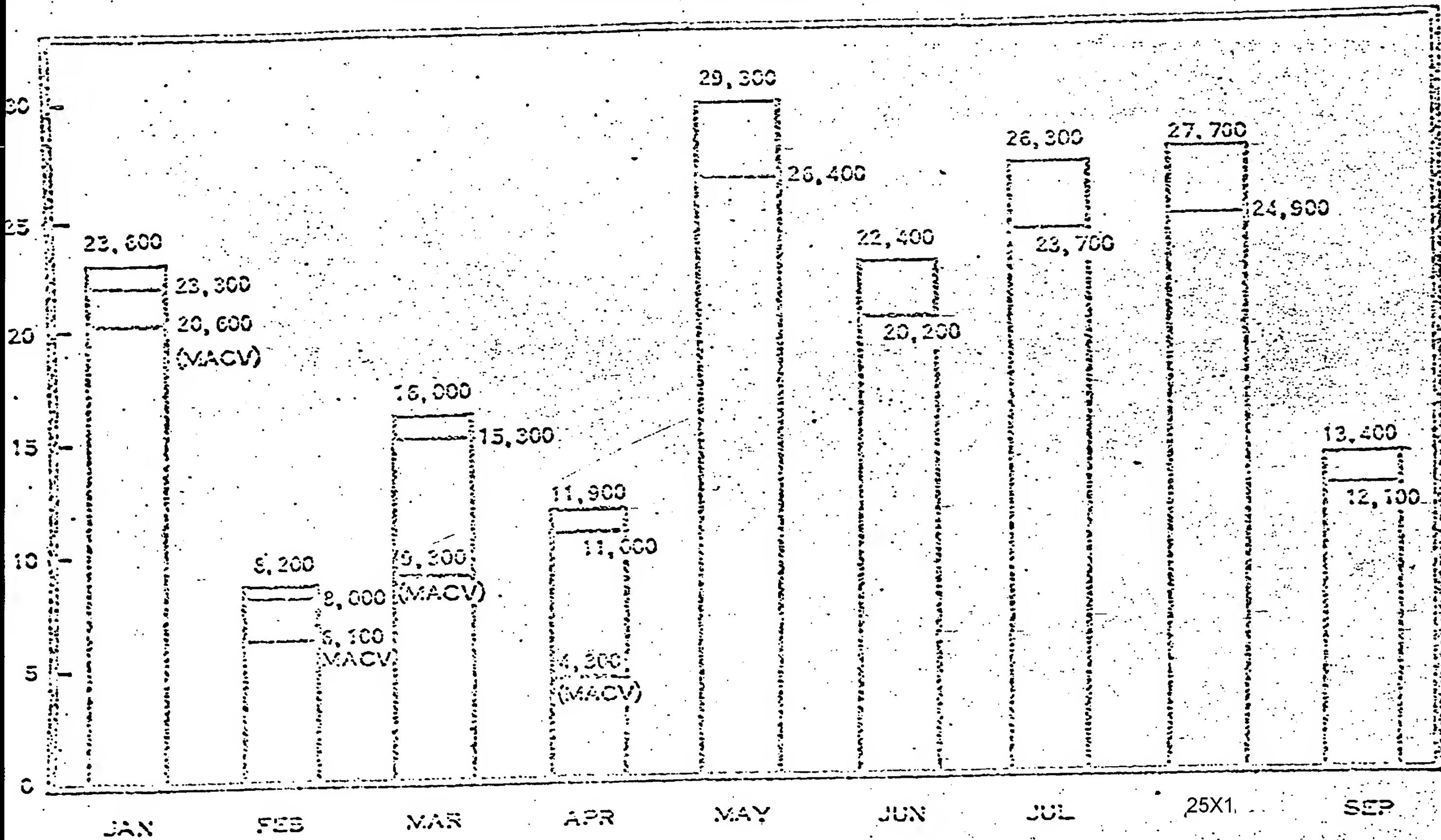
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have not been detected. The total number of personnel involved might well exceed 200,000.

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PROJECTED MONTHLY INFILTRATION ARRIVAL RATES



- 10% ATTRITION FACTOR (NOT APPLIED TO MACV ACCEPTED AND POSSIBLE JAN - APR)
 ESTIMATED ARRIVAL STRENGTHS AFTER ATTRITION

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